IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 11, 13, 14 and 17 and cancel claims 4, 16 and 19 without prejudice as follows:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for initializing a cable modem comprising:

a tuner unit adapted to receive, tune and output a plurality of downstream signals received from a cable modem termination system and to receive, tune and output a plurality of upstream signals to the cable modem termination system;

a downstream unit adapted to demodulate the downstream signals from the tuner unit and separate general data from a media access control (MAC) management message;

a message processor adapted to detect name information and version information of a configuration file for initializing the cable modem and manufacturing automation protocol (MAP) information according to the MAC management message input from the downstream unit;

a CPU adapted to control the message processor; and

an upstream unit adapted to generate and modulate the upstream signal according to the MAP information detected by the message processor,

wherein the CPU compares the name information of the configuration file for initializing the cable modem to name information of a configuration file previously stored in a memory, compares the version information of the configuration file for initializing the cable modem to version information of the previously stored configuration file only if the name information of the configuration file for initializing the cable modem is identical to the name information of the previously stored configuration file, and reads ~~a~~ the previously stored configuration file ~~from a memory~~ when the ~~detected~~ version information of the configuration file for initializing the cable modem is identical to the

version information of the previously stored configuration file and initializes the cable modem based on the previously stored configuration file.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the general data of the downstream unit is transmitted to a display unit that can be viewed by a user through an MPEG 2 transport stream interface, and the MAC management message is transmitted to the message processor.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the message processor parses the format of information related to the detected configuration file into a configuration file name part and a configuration file version part with a delimiter part therebetween.

6. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the format of the information related to the detected configuration file comprises a file name part indicating a configuration file name, a file version part indicating a configuration file version, and a delimiter part differentiating the file name part and the file version part.

7-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) A method for initializing a cable modem, the method comprising:

registering information related to a detected configuration file in a dynamic host configuration protocol (DHCP) server;

receiving the information related to the detected configuration file registered in the DHCP server;

comparing ~~the received~~name information related to the detected configuration file with name information related to a previously stored configuration file;

comparing version information related to the detected configuration file with version information related to the previously stored configuration file only if the name information of the detected configuration file is identical to the name information related to the previously stored configuration file; and

reading the previously stored configuration file, registering the cable modem using the previously stored configuration file and initializing the cable modem based on the previously stored configuration file when both the ~~received~~ name information related to the detected configuration file is identical to the name information ~~of~~ related to the previously stored configuration file and the version information related to the detected configuration file is identical to the version information related to the previously stored configuration file.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein receiving the information related to the detected configuration file comprises:

parsing the configuration file information into a file name part and a file version part.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11, ~~wherein comparing the received information related to the detected configuration file with the information related to the previously stored configuration file comprises~~further comprising:

~~comparing a file name of the detected configuration file to a file name of the previously stored configuration file;~~

downloading the detected configuration file if the ~~file~~ name information related to ~~of~~ the detected configuration file and the ~~file~~ name information related to ~~of~~ the previously stored configuration file are different; and

~~comparing a version of the detected configuration file to a version of the previously stored configuration file if the file name of the detected configuration file is identical to the file name of the previously stored configuration file and~~ downloading the detected configuration file if the version information related to ~~of~~ the detected configuration file is more recent than the version information related to ~~of~~ the previously stored configuration file ~~version~~.

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, further comprising:

performing a registration process of the cable modem by using the previously stored configuration file if the version information of the detected configuration file is the same as the version information of the previously stored configuration file.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the format of the information related to the detected configuration file and the previously stored configuration file comprise:

a file name part indicating a configuration file name;

a file version part indicating a configuration file version; and

a delimiter part between the file name part and the file version part.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) A method for initializing a cable modem, the method comprising:

constructing first configuration file information with a file name part, a file version part and a delimiter part, the delimiter part having a finite size such that the file name part and file version part border the delimiter part, and registering the configuration file information in a dynamic host configuration protocol (DHCP) server, the first configuration file information corresponding to a detected configuration file;

receiving the first configuration file information registered in the DHCP server;

parsing the first configuration file information into a file name part and a file version part;

reading second configuration file information corresponding to a previously stored configuration file;

comparing the file name part of the first configuration file information to a file name part of the second configuration file information;

downloading the detected configuration file if the file name part of the first configuration file information and the file name part of the second configuration file information are different ~~and comparing the file version part of the first configuration file information to a file version part of the second configuration file information only if the file name part of the first configuration file information is identical to the file name part of the second configuration file information~~;

comparing the file version part of the first configuration file information to a file version part of the second configuration file information only if the file name part of the first configuration file information is identical to the file name part of the second configuration file information;

downloading the detected configuration file if the file version part of the first configuration file information is more recent than the file version part of the second configuration file information and reading the previously stored configuration file if the file version part of the first configuration file information is one of older than and the same as the file version part of the second configuration file information; and

performing a registration process using one of the detected configuration file and the previously stored configuration file according to the comparison result.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein if the detected configuration file is an initialization file that is first input to the cable modem, the first configuration file is stored in the memory and the registration process is performed using the first configuration file information.

19. (Canceled)